

441/1/002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT : Shinichi OKAMOTO  
SERIAL NO.: UNASSIGNED (PCT/JP01/00130)  
FILED : JULY 30, 2001  
FOR : METHOD OF MANUFACTURING FERRULE

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(Signature and Date)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
BOX PCT  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application,  
please amend the same as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Page 18, line 1, before claim 1, change "CLAIMS" to

--WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--.

Amend claims 1-8, and add new claims 9-20, as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a ferrule,  
comprising the steps of:  
carrying out electrocasting in an electrocasting tank

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using at least one wire as a mother die set in at least one  
5 holding jig,

rotating the at least one wire while maintaining the at  
least one wire static in a longitudinal direction of the  
electrocasting tank during electrocasting, and

removing the at least one wire from a resulting  
10 electrocast product.

2. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule  
according to Claim 1, wherein the electrocasting step is carried  
out in the electrocasting tank under autorotation of the at least  
one wire together with the at least one holding jig.

3. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule  
according to Claim 1, wherein the electrocasting step is carried  
out in the electrocasting tank under autorotation and circulation  
of the at least one wire together with the at least one holding  
5 jig.

4. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule  
according to Claim 1, wherein the electrocasting step is carried  
out under autorotation of the at least one wire and also under  
rotation of the entire electrocasting tank containing a positive  
5 electrode.

5. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 1, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out under autorotation of the at least one wire together with the at least one holding jig in the electrocasting tank, and further  
5 comprising the step of stopping electrocasting treatment at a stage when a watthour meter attached to one of the holding jigs detects a predetermined watthour value so as to achieve diameter control of products to be manufactured.

6. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of supplying a direct current from a rectifier for each holding jig.

7. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 1, wherein there are a plurality of holding jigs, and the holding jigs are arranged equidistant from a positive electrode in the electrostatic tank.

8. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 1, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out under one-way jet flow of an electrocasting solution supplied from a nozzle of a pump into an electrocasting solution contained  
5 in the electrocasting tank so as to circulate and agitate the electrocasting solution in the electrocasting tank.

9. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out in the electrocasting tank under autorotation of the at least one wire together with the at least one holding jig.

10. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out in the electrocasting tank under autorotation and circulation of the at least one wire together with the at least one holding jig.

11. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out under autorotation of the at least one wire and also under rotation of the entire electrocasting tank containing a positive electrode.

12. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out under autorotation of the at least one wire together with the at least one holding jig in the electrocasting tank, and further comprising  
5 the step of stopping electrocasting treatment at a stage when a watt-hour meter attached to one of the holding jigs detects a predetermined watt-hour value so as to achieve diameter control of products to be manufactured.

13. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 4, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out under

autorotation of the at least one wire together with the at least one holding jig in the electrcasting tank, and further comprising  
5 the step of stopping electrocasting treatment at a stage when a watt-hour meter attached to one of the holding jigs detects a predetermined watt-hour value so as to achieve diameter control of products to be manufactured.

14. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of supplying a direct current from a rectifier for each holding jig.

15. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 4, further comprising the step of supplying a direct current from a rectifier for each holding jig.

16. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, wherein there are a plurality of holding jigs, and the holding jigs are arranged equidistant from a positive electrode in the electrostatic tank.

17. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 3, wherein there are a plurality of holding jigs, and the holding jigs are arranged equidistant from a positive electrode in the electrostatic tank.

18. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 4, wherein there are a plurality of holding jigs, and the holding jigs are arranged equidistant from a positive electrode in the electrostatic tank.

19. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out under one-way jet flow of an electrocasting solution supplied from a nozzle of a pump into an electrocasting solution contained in the electrocasting tank so as to circulate and agitate the electrocasting solution in the electrocasting tank.

20. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 3, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out under one-way jet flow of an electrocasting solution supplied from a nozzle of a pump into an electrocasting solution contained in the electrocasting tank so as to circulate and agitate the electrocasting solution in the electrocasting tank.

**SECRET**

The claims have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis, positively recite the steps starting with an active verb, and eliminate the numerals.

A marked-up copy of the amendments to the claims is attached hereto.

It is hoped that this Preliminary Amendment will facilitate an examination of the application on its merits.

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4. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 1 [or 2], wherein the electrocasting [treatment] step is carried out under autorotation of the at least one wire [9] and also under rotation of the entire electrocasting tank [10] containing a positive electrode [4].

5 5. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 1[, 2 or 4], wherein the electrocasting [treatment] step is carried out under autorotation of the at least one wire [9] together with the at least one holding jig [5] in the electrocasting tank, and further comprising the step of stopping [the] electrocasting treatment at a stage when a watt-hour meter attached to one of the holding jigs detects a predetermined watt-hour value so as to achieve diameter control of products to be manufactured.

6. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 1[, 2 or 4], [wherein] further comprising the step of supplying a direct current [is supplied] from a rectifier [per] for each holding jig [5].

7. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 1[, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6], wherein there are a plurality of holding jigs, and the holding jigs [5] are arranged equidistant from [the] a positive electrode [4] in the electrostatic tank.

8. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 1[, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7], wherein the electrocasting [treatment] step is carried out under one-way jet flow of an electrocasting solution supplied from a nozzle [33] of  
5 a [circulating] pump [or a filter pump] into [a] an electrocasting solution contained in the electrocasting tank [10] so as to circulate and agitate the electrocasting solution in the electrocasting tank [10].

9. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out in the electrocasting tank under autorotation of the at least one wire together with the at least one holding jig.

10. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out in the electrocasting tank under autorotation and circulation of the at least one wire together with the at least one holding jig.

11. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out under autorotation of the at least one wire and also under rotation of the entire electrocasting tank containing a positive electrode.

12. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out under autorotation of the at least one wire together with the at least one holding jig in the electrocasting tank, and further comprising  
5 the step of stopping electrocasting treatment at a stage when a watthour meter attached to one of the holding jigs detects a predetermined watthour value so as to achieve diameter control of products to be manufactured.

13. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 4, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out under autorotation of the at least one wire together with the at least one holding jig in the electrocasting tank, and further comprising  
5 the step of stopping electrocasting treatment at a stage when a watthour meter attached to one of the holding jigs detects a predetermined watthour value so as to achieve diameter control of products to be manufactured.

14. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of supplying a direct current from a rectifier for each holding jig.

15. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 4, further comprising the step of supplying a direct current from a rectifier for each holding jig.



- 5 electrocasting tank so as to circulate and agitate the electrocasting solution in the electrocasting tank.

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